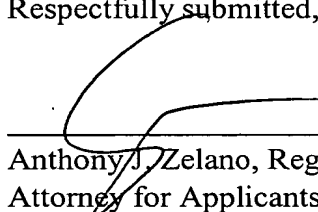


## REMARKS

The purpose of this Preliminary Amendment is to eliminate multiple dependent claims in order to avoid the additional fee. Applicants reserve the right to reintroduce claims to canceled combined subject matter.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendment. The attached pages are captioned “**Version With Markings to Show Changes Made**”.

Respectfully submitted,



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Filed: 22 January 2002

**VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE**

Claims 3 and 4 were amended as follows:

3. (Amended) Protein according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~, which has a mobility of 6 kDa in the SDS-gel electrophoresis.

4. (Amended) Protein, which comprises a signal sequence and a protein according to ~~one of the preceding~~ claims 1, whereby the protein has one of the following sequences:

SEQ ID NO: 3 (PreSAP-2); or

SEQ ID NO: 4 (PreSAP-3);

or

whereby the protein has allelic modifications of one of the amino acid sequences that are mentioned above under d), whereby at least one amino acid of the amino acid sequence is substituted, deleted or inserted, without in this case significantly affecting the activity of the mature active protein,

or

whereby the protein has post-translational modifications of one of the sequences under d) and e), and said modifications do not significantly affect the activity of the active mature protein.